Introduction of advanced passenger information system

2422. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed implementation of Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) from October 1 this year to facilitate faster entry to foreigners visiting India;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the airports where this system will function, and the expenses to be incurred;

(c) the details of impact on security by this system, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A notification amending the Foreigners Order, 1948 was issued on 07.03.2005 to implement Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) from 01.10.2005 making it obligatory on the pilot of the aircraft/master of the vessel coming to India to provide prescribed information electronically about passengers on board to the immigration authorities in India within 15 minutes to taking off/leaving from the port outside India. APIS will function at all international airports in India. Expenses on communication and processing of the information will be born by the airlines and Central Government respectively.

(c) APIS will facilitate faster immigration clearance without compromising security.

Use of Hindi in Indian missions abroad

2423. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Official Language is also taking care of use of Hindi in Indian Missions abroad;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard during last two years;

(c) whether Indian Missions abroad are also advised to encourage foreign countries to teach Hindi in their countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?